

EDITORIALS

RULES: WHO NEEDS 'EM?



So I was sitting in English class the other day and one of my classmates hands me this book entitled Days of War, Nights of Love and tells me to read a section of it. It went into a long-winded argument attempting to explain why rules are meant to be broken, and how making one's *own* is the only way to go. Absurd as it may sound, the author had a rather compelling argument. He/she contended that any major law or statute set in our society is biased and could never pertain to everyone. For example: stealing is wrong, but what about all the homeless people out there who steal to survive? The author also touched upon the idea that our world has gotten progressively worse even though we have, over time, adopted more specific ways of life. People will always want to rebel and serve themselves no matter how many laws there are to prevent it. So, the author concluded, everyone would

truly be happier if we just created our *own* norms, values, rules, and general standards of living, right? Wrong. While it is true that not all ordinances apply to every human being, they do serve as a guide for our well-being.

Another point the author tried to make was that there is really no such thing as "natural law"; or, in other words, humanity has conformed to certain core beliefs that we assume are a result of our natural needs. She/he claimed (using the previous example) that stealing is not wrong by nature, it is a matter of relativity, and is something that *humanity* has decided to be immoral. This is something I have a hard time accepting. If I were to spark an argument with a friend and proceed to punch her in the face, she would feel pain, yes? Well pain is a *natural* feeling that we inherently perceive to be bad. So when people commit offenses against others, like killing, how is that NOT wrong? Is the pain felt by a victim of a crime a mere figment of his/her imagination? I think not.

If we had no rules whatsoever and everyone just rolled through life doing what best fit their own judgments, we would have one skewed society.

Obviously, just because there would be no consequences for it does not mean people would regularly indulge in killing/stealing/raping sprees, but in the absence of any general guidelines for conduct, hedonism would surely take over. We are a selfish race, and without control we could and most definitely would slump into a self-indulgent lifestyle. So, if there is anything that I *can* condone from the book, it is that rules *can* be overrated at times and, depending on the situation at hand, it may be best to break a few of them; but overall the idea of a self-governed society is nothing short of preposterous.

By: Lindsey Pierce

HEY, CHRISTIANS, LEAVE THEM KIDS ALONE

Hello everyone, my name is Brett Griffin, and I am from Ohio, the most boring place on the face of the planet next to Indiana, and in both ways next to. My little rant is on religion, especially regarding Christianity.

I am Wiccan, a pagan religion, and it's hard to be this religion, especially if it is a mostly Christian country, as well as a community. A lot of the time I get grief for my beliefs because people

automatically assume that I'm a witch or warlock and casting spells and the whole bunch of doo dilly I dunno stuff, you read in Harry Potter.

The people who think that about me and my religion, are wrong. These people are mostly Christian. I used to be Christian, though I never really got it cause it's simply not logical. Many people don't understand what is going on in Wicca and other Pagan religions because Christianity has defaced and put out an extreme amount of propaganda toward Pagan religions because they don't want people to appeal to them by saying that its the devil or evil, when really, the #1 rule or guideline for Wicca and other pagan religions is, Harm None. Hmmm isn't that implied in the Ten Commandments, also?

But we don't see Christians doing that lately in the last 2000 years have we? The Crusades, got a good amount of killing there, or The Burning Times, where Christians went around torching basically everyone suspected of being Pagan, or a witch? I think that Thou Shall NOT kill shouldn't even be on the slab.

Don't get me wrong, not all Christians are like

this. I have a lot a friends that are Christian. But when they try to convert me and shit, it's really annoying. "You'll go to hell!" they say. "Nope" I say, "cause I don't believe in hell and how could God the almighty even let there be a hell? Isn't he like, all powerful or something? That's what I was taught."

My point is that I think that Christians need to read the book, and actually follow the Ten Commandments that they have devoted themselves to when they get baptized or confirmed or whatever.

What's reall y going on, when a priest, A PREIST (the no sex no marriage people), is bangin little boys in the bum? And what's going on when I can QUOTE a person saying he is going to be an assassin for Christ because the Supreme Court is becoming less Christian. SO MANY QUESTIONS AND *GASP* NO ANSWERS!

I scratch my chin at Christians and simply ask...wtf mates? It's a matter of faith. The more faith the more you comprehend. This I can understand if there was logic but as I have stated there is little (nothing) in the bible, with Jesus being a Jew and then turning Christian.

Christians love Jesus but don't like Jews. Jesus was Jewish though. It makes me wish Lewis Black would get on the topic. Wouldn't that be great, logical, and funny.

Bash me, call me out, do what you will, hell try to convert me if you want. But I would really start liking it if Christians would just follow their rules regarding The Ten Commandments. Sorry if this made no sense but I'm a bad writer.

Hodeedoodeeday olala
By: Brett Griffin

GREETINGS

Greetings! I know that this is usually an anti-war newsletter, but what harm can there be in seeing the opposite side of the spectrum? So let's see if I get the situation right. The Bush administration has no idea about what they're doing and Bush shouldn't even be in office, huh? Then how did he get elected? So many people were against going into Iraq, but I just don't understand why. There we had a dictator by the name of Saddam Hussein who had killed, wait no horrendously murdered is probably a better phrase upwards of 300,000 men, women, and children, most of them completely innocent, and a lot of the

time using experimental biological warfare. Ok, I'll grant you that we haven't found stacks of biological weapons in Iraq yet, but what about the trucks that were converted into mobile laboratories for producing weapons of mass destruction, the missiles with longer range than he agreed to limit them, to, or, while there are no apparent connections to Al-Qaeda, the terrorist training camp in northern Iraq? Please understand that I do not want you to completely discard your beliefs about the situation, I just want you to think about both sides. George Bush, I will admit, is not my picture perfect choice for the president, but I think that it is extremely important for our country to make a strong unified force during a time where there is so much turmoil throughout the world. So please keep considering all the facts involved, as I'm sure you are already, and helps support our country! Thanks.

By: Paula Hoffmann

MIKE SHINE HATES BLACK PEOPLE

Last issue, Mike Shine wrote an article, which stated that America needs a religion, a standard code of morals. The gist of it was that America was founded

on Christian ideals. You're expecting me to come up with a bunch of facts about how our Nation wasn't founded on the Christian religion, aren't you? Well get ready for a curve ball, because Mike's exactly right!

For most our country's history, you had to swear by the Ten Commandments to be president. You weren't even legally allowed to hold office without stating that you were a Christian.

You know that thing in court where you have to swear on a bible to testify? Well, if you weren't a Christian in the 1800's, your testimony was regarded as speculation and the stenographer *was not instructed to write it down*. As you can see, our country, beneath the surface, was actually quite religious.

But... Guess what my source on this information is?

Any ideas?

No?

Well, I guess I'll have to tell you. The Ku Klux Klan.

Shocked? It's true. This info was compiled from a number of KKK sites.

So. Mike Shine believes the same thing the KKK does. Mike Shine therefore hates black people.

Outrageous, you say. An entirely unfair generalization. I agree. But Is it not an equally unfair generalization to say that we of little or different faith have a looser, inferior set of morals?

The answer is no. We know right from wrong, and we know how to behave. We are not the cause of corruption in the government; we are not the cause of America's problems

By: Andrew Humphrey

BUSH



Bush seems to be the man of the hour and a man that will be talked about for decades to come. He, in my opinion, has surpassed Nixon's treachery. I'm sure many of the folks reading this article will agree with me on this one. Bush is the classic example of a power-crazed male idiot. Besides obviously lacking proper education as a child and being compared to chimpanzees in both mentality and appearance, Bush is an all around good guy once you get to know him (HA! RIGHT).

I can understand his feelings towards the 9/11 terrorist attacks and who wouldn't want to kill the fuckass responsible for thousands of deaths. But the fact is, *that* crusade was over long ago. Bush took his success to his head and decided, being in control of America wasn't enough for him. He wanted to spread his power to the Middle East and try to become a savior to the people in Iraq; controlling and keeping the peace (OIL OIL OIL) among the people. Bush is the biggest douche in the universe, even more than John Edwards. Through his mighty quest for power and control (OIL OIL OIL) he is not only paying for this with the human lives of the soldiers who thought they were going to be avenging their fallen brothers and sisters in the 9/11 attack; not babysitting! Their lives are put on the line so our president can try to bring some money back to the economy by quenching his thirst with OIL. Bush has made this country's debt increase enormously since his election. Basically, this is his last hope to show improvement and prove he can do something good for us all in hopes of a re-election. A quote from the wish "GO SUCK A FUCK" Bush will not be re-elected even if he does rig every

voting booth from DC to Hawaii. Bring our troops back and do us all a favor and die. Where's John Wilksbooth when you need him??

I feel very strongly about my opinion upon Bush, but if you disagree in any way at all please let me know your opinion on the matter. JolleyGreenGiant@hotmail.com,
By: Garrett

9/11

September 11, 2001- we all remember it. The "day of infamy" of the twenty-first century. It's been more than two years now, but for many the horror, the destruction, the death, and the bravery are still fresh in our minds. Or that's what the Bush administration is hoping. A few days ago, Bush released his first wave of political ads, trying to halt his slipping position in the polls. And what did he show in these ads? You guessed it. Images of September 11. Immediately following the ads, criticism poured in from all over the country, calling the ads an attempt to use the deaths of 3,000 innocent people as a tool to maintain the White House stamped with that fat elephant logo we all love. The Bush administration' s rebuttal?

September 11 was the "defining moment" of the administration, showing their resolve and compassion for the country. In many respects, I can't argue with that. They haven't done any good since that day, so why not make people recall the fear, grief, and terror of two years ago to make people forget the fear, grief, and terror of today? I mean, all people who suffered (physically or spiritually) on 9/11 were obviously Republicans, right? Please. These ads are a direct insult to every nonpartisan victim of September 11, and the Bush administration knew what it was doing before they even released the ad.

However, there's a darker symbolism behind these ads, besides the manipulation of the dead. Why do you think Bush showed these images? If Bush was doing such a good job today, wouldn't he be showing us images of happy Iraqis going to school, applauding for the United States at the UN, and promising economic reports? Despite the obvious, Bush isn't that stupid. He knows the US is in hot water now. There denials are the same every time. "We're building schools in Iraq, setting up a Democratic government, and establishing security!"

The next second, a US soldier is killed after trying to help an innocent boy (with a hidden bomb strapped to his waist) called for the soldier to come closer. Next, a Black Hawk goes down by an RPG. Then, innocent Shiite worshipers get a pleasant morning surprise when three bombs rip through their morning worship. Over at the interim government, one faction or another of the Iraqi people is refusing to sign the new constitution. Down the street, there' s a record protest in downtown Baghdad against the US presence. See a pattern? Bush doesn' t. According to him, everything' swell (in the air conditioned Oval office). I don' t blame Bush for September 11. It would have happened to any administration. I even acknowledge the sense of national unity, pride, and courage that followed. But President Bush' s response to 9/11 has been a failure. There are many situations of circumstance over which we have no control. But we do have the power to respond to those circumstances, a responsibility which the Bush administration has neglected to uphold in an honorable manner. These ads are nothing less than an

attempt to hide the truth and veil reality. It is our country' s only hope that we, the people, have to power to see past these lies.

By: Mike Shine

A CRAZY MAN WROTE THIS

This election I am saddened by the fact that no conservatives who feel the same as I do are trying to de-throne Bush the Great Idiot. He is no longer a republican in my few because of the amounts of money spent in my name and other conservatives that hate him. And the fact that he spent I think 93 billion on Iraq and the first war was cheaper is a punch in the face to me. I am offended that with an insane increase in cost cutting tech. and weaponry that let us do more with less is ridiculous however for those out there who are confused it is the price tag I didn't want not Operation Iraq Freedom I was and still am in full support killing assholes who hate us for ruining their chance of taking over weaker countries which by the way is why Saddam hates the United States in the first place is because in 1990 after 100 hours of fighting he lost control of Kuwait and should have been ousted from power then but politics decide to side with

evil who knew this time and so Bush just sanction the crap out of Saddam and said we would oust him if he didn't cooperate. Then it was Clinton turn at the White House and the buttons that some think I should never be in control of. And in 1998 Saddam decided to violate the U.N. resolutions and kick out our inspectors. Well if it were me Saddam would have the amount of time it takes the inspectors to get back in Iraq to shape up, in other words when they get there let them in or we force new leadership upon your suffering people, leadership that will listen to the U.N. and peacefully exist in the Middle East. But it wasn't me was it? Unfortunately for our nation our people and the men and women that give us the right to say this stuff Clinton was in charge. Were as his economic plans seemed effective he lacked in the testosterone (Monica will try and defend that but it is true) department so he was too afraid to invade Iraq, however if he did I am sure the American People would support him. And it would be a quick war only about two weeks max and then it would be good again. I think what I am trying to say is that I wish that this war came sooner with as crazy as it sounds

would do the country good and help our economy and boost patriotism. Also I am saying that I was more for the removal of Saddam than the actual war and you know how I would have done things. Another thing the whole restrictions of our freedoms in the Patriot Act I think is treason and Bush should be executed for it as all traitors are. And as far as the gov. reading emails our hope they read this and I am arrested and go on the news accused of plotting against Bush because I am, I wish someone would lead some soldiers right up to his door step and say "Mr. Idiot you are charge with Crimes Against the State including Treason and will here by under go trial you are innocent until proven of guilt if found guilty you will be hanged on the White House lawn until dead for all the Country to witness." This is a little off topic but people say that I have major problems. The man is a nazi and should be put out of our misery and the country given to Ben and me. Then not only will no one in the right mind fuck with us but also the deficit will vanish in a few years and social security will go from almost nothing to a lot more in the pockets of the retired. And if you would like to know my stance on life read The

Terrible Truth About Liberals by Neal Borts. It will clear it all up for you. But as for now I leave you with this thought: don't eve go on welfare because it is like crack, once you are on it is a bitch to get your lazy ass off it.

By: George Lebouf

POETRY

LOOKING INTO

Looking into

I saw my eye in the reflection
Of the cup of coffee
You just bought me.

I followed the white rim of
the cup with my eyes
Focusing on the brown
water marks
Left by the coffee that never
had a purpose

On my mind was nothing
Nothing
You, the coffee and I
Even the stranger sitting on
the other side of the room
Were nothing...

Blink.
It hit my in-between the
eyes
Reality.
I looked up and focused
You, in a state of nothing
also. said nothing
but gave a smile.
me, smiling back

as if we were each others
mirror
"what's wrong"
...nothing...
I turned my head and
focused on the reflection
left of you and I on the
window we sat by.
outside
I watched the sky turn black
weak, all there was to do is
watch.
all there was to do,
was nothing.

when we walked outside
the rain was welcoming us.

walked.
we had no shadows
the even light of the gray
sky
surrounded us.

I watched your reflection
in the uneven puddles of the
sidewalk.
detached from reality
the reflection, showing me a
side of you ive never seen
before.
and all I could do
is nothing.

Good-bye.

going our separate ways
I walked into nothing again
shaking me hand as a sign
of greeting

I had no ones reflection to
watch.
no mirror to smile back too.
I had nothing to myself

nothing is better
when shared with you
but
all I could do
was
nothing

By: Cailin Carlile

UNTITLED

I've paved the way
So many a day
For those to act
Who speak.

Their Limits were
The whine they sang
So I gave them critique.

Show what you say
TODAY, TODAY
Change the patterns
Change the ways.

And in return
These friendships
Blossomed
But not yet
As a rose.

By: Ben Olsen

GOODBYE POLITICAL BRIEF

This is the last issue of the newsletter. It lasted for a year and a half and I have learned much by making it. Thanks to Michael Moore who inspired me to get up, get out, and fight for a cause.

So yes, this is the end of the newsletter, but it is not the end of me. This

summer I will be in the works trying to perfect a new format, layout, and distribution method. The new version will be more professional by feel, but will still be subject to the grainy open press style setting for high schoolers. A different name for the Zine will be chosen.

I will soon include this issue and all of the past issues for a compilation booklet that will be sold for a couple of bucks. What little profit I make from this will be used to fund the other projects I am currently working on. This includes the next Zine, and projects being worked on by my production company.

I am currently working on two documentary films that will be released before the election. When these documentaries are complete, a notice will show up on the website, and an e-mail will be sent out to the online update newsletter subscribers. I will list times and dates that screenings of the films will be showing, as well as ways to receive copies of the films, so that one can spread the knowledge to undecided voters and anyone else.

But remember: in order to even finish these documentaries and start the next Zine, I need a budget. The cash coming out of my

own pockets isn't going to cut it, so please purchase the compilation, or even donate whatever you can, to support the cause.

The newsletter stops here because I have served my purpose. I have supplied an open forum for political opinion under the one rule that the articles have to be researched or at least based on facts.

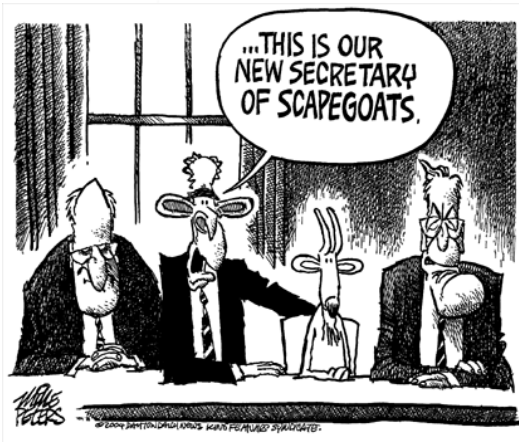
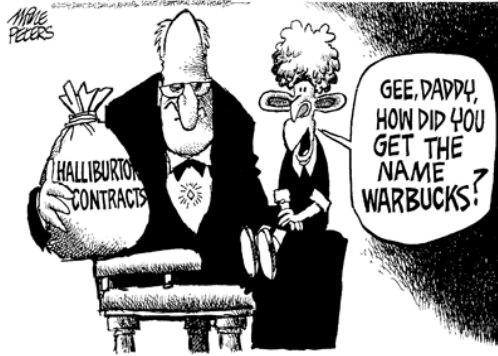
Once I moved to Portland, the need for this forum dropped significantly because so many people here are already politically conscious or motivated. The newsletter became an intriguing and fun-to-read debate, but was no longer needed to help progress political awareness in society (here in Portland).

So, for now, I say Adieu to you readers. Just remember, the Political Brief may be over, but I still have a good fight in me. At this point, I am just choosing to go more directly into supporting my liberal values.

GOODBYE POLITICAL BRIEF

Watch for me in the coming months. In the meantime...I love Big Brother.

By: Ben Olsen



**THANKS FOR
READING WHAT I
HAD FUN MAKING.
THANKS TO ALL THE
WRITERS TOO. AND
TO KARL FOR
EDITING**

Chief Editor: Ben Olsen

PEACE